

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Monday, April 29, 1968
12 Shekel, 5728, 13 Shekel, 1978

THE trickle of half-truths that seeped out of the recent conference of military advisers to the South-east Asia

SEATO Treaty Organization in Wellington, New Zealand, is now raising awkward questions in Asian minds and giving Seato precisely the type of publicity it tries to avoid.

Political leaders in Singapore, for example, have reacted strongly to the hint that guided missile bases might in future be set up there, and other countries have some misgivings about a British recommendation that all Seato States should have similar installations. They would appear to see themselves becoming platforms for intercontinental ballistic missiles aimed at China, and consequently, as priority targets for nuclear attack by the Communist bloc. On the other hand they seem to have misunderstood the British suggestion which had to do with ground-to-air missiles, in other words, with nothing more sinister than a modernization of existing anti-aircraft defences.

Reports that Seato was planning to form a "fire brigade," a mobile striking force which could immediately move to the aid of any country not covered by the Manila Pact of 1954 which set up the organization, but which was nevertheless threatened with Communist aggression, have caused further embarrassment. For the only available "fire brigade" is the Commonwealth strategic reserve based on the Federation of Malaya. Malaysia is not a member of Seato, and the implied assumption on the part of the British that Kuala Lumpur will automatically allow Commonwealth forces to fulfil Seato commitments from Malayan bases is naturally resented by Malaysians.

Finally, the alleged leakage of information in Wellington revealing that Laos was regarded as a "hot spot," to which a "fire brigade" might have to be called at short notice, has done nothing to allay Asian suspicions. Seato has extended a guarantee of protection to Laos, but Laos is not a member State and in fact, there is no question of military intervention in Laos in present circumstances.

It is ironic that Seato should be credited in consequence with dark designs against the peace and security of South-east Asia. No international defence organization could lead further backwards in order to avoid appearing provocative and offending the uncommitted States in Asia. Seato has no responsibilities towards Formosa or Hong Kong and it turns a deaf ear to the urgings of South Korean Ministers that it should be expanded into a collective defence organization covering the whole of the Far East. It has refrained from pressing for the participation of States like Laos as "that would only make the Communists take a more active interest in the country." It does not flood the area with anti-Communist Seato propaganda, but leaves to neutral States the initiative of recognizing and accepting the pact. Thus the South-east Asia Treaty Organization differs radically from Nato. Moreover, the Commonwealth troops in Malaya add up to little more than the equivalent of one division, constitute primarily a Commonwealth defence force, and are engaged against the terrorists in the Peninsula.

Superficially, therefore, Seato appears to be an exercise in futility, but the virulent attacks directed against it by Moscow and Peking show that it is not. It has acted as an effective deterrent against Communist expansion and aggression in South-east Asia. It has provided an arena for closer military cooperation between Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Above all the Manila Pact irrevocably commits the power of the United States (in particular its mighty Seventh Fleet) to the defence of the area.

Profile: CHRISTIAN HERTER

By PHILIP DEANE

WASHINGTON (AP)—The mantle of John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State has fallen upon Christian Herter, a mild man bent with arthritis who has been acting as caretaker in the post since the onset of Mr. Dulles' illness.

Even diplomatic experts in Washington will be much surprised if the changeover immediately results in any notable change of American foreign policy. In a sense, unless the pressure of circumstances prove to be overwhelming, Mr. Herter is expected to continue at first to be no more than an executor of the policies created by Mr. Dulles.

There are many reasons for this forecast. Not least among them Mr. Herter's character. Christian Herter was born in Paris of American parents 64 years ago. From Harvard he joined the United States diplomatic service and became an attaché at the American Embassy in Berlin in 1918-17.

In the following year he was a special assistant in the State Department, and then secretary of the American Peace Commission in Paris in 1919-18. These were all brief spells of work, and his first long-lasting job was as assistant to Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, from 1919 until 1924.

Lectured at Harvard. Thereafter he turned newspaper editor, lectured for a year at Harvard on international relations, and was elected to the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1927. He was Speaker there for three years from 1929, and then entered Congress as a Republican Representative from the State.

There he joined a distinguished committee which studied Europe's postwar economic crisis and wrote a report which greatly helped towards the acceptance of passage of the Marshall Plan.

Mr. Herter was elected Governor of Massachusetts and was briefly (and against his will) boosted by Harold Stassen as an alternative to Richard Nixon for the U.S. Vice-Presidency. Instead, in 1956, he became Under-Secretary of State.

This appointment made him deputy for Mr. Dulles but, like most other posts in the American State Department, he had not the authority to

match the title. Mr. Dulles made all his own decisions. Under Mr. Dulles the State Department has been a one-man show. Certainly Mr. Herter knew what he was doing on, but he was not consulted. Moreover, he has shown no sign of any forceful pushing.

I have watched him testify before Congressional committees, popular, but lacking the awesome encyclopaedic knowledge of his chief. Mr. Dulles could always get up in front of a hostile Congress and force home his views. The same command and dialectical talent enabled him to turn the Press conference into a weapon of diplomacy.

Shy Manner. Mr. Herter, on the other hand, has a shy and diffident manner. He is easily embarrassed. It may be that the intellectual stature of Mr. Dulles has hitherto thrown these characteristics into unwarranted relief, but at the Camp David talks between Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Macmillan, Mr. Herter did not shine. He had to permit his subordinate to argue a number of points with the British Prime Minister. This, too, may well have owed something to his invidious position at that time as the caretaker for a man who might still return to the diplomatic scene, but it was not out of tune with his known character.

One of the first things he

heard abroad

The future of West Berlin cannot be secured adequately by a determination to stand firm on a policy of standing pat.

Mr. Walter Lippmann, I cannot understand a Government which subsidizes opera, wants to go to and taxes cinema which we all want to go to.

Mr. Herter, M.P. Even integrated Europe could not become a great Power in the last years of the world. It could be an ally of America — instead of a satellite. — Sir Pietro Quaroni, Italian Ambassador to Bonn.

HEARD ABROAD

Editor, The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Would it be possible to get a reliable and authoritative reply to the simple question: what is a member of the public supposed to do when a bus driver starts smoking?

On March 30, I travelled on the 3:30 p.m. bus from Haifa to Tiberias. I sat right behind the driver, and just after passing Tivon, I noticed that he was about to light a cigarette. I objected, and he finally declared that he just had to have a smoke. So he did.

It is, of course, arguable that the police should take the matter up and ask a

court to revoke the licence of a man who must smoke while he drives. The judge would obviously require proof that the driver was smoking, and here the trouble starts. I did not see the driver's face long enough to identify him after weeks or months, and the proof would depend on Eshed's records, which may or may not be produced in court. It is a fact that at least one driver was acquitted for lack of identification after the police had failed to secure evidence that the accused had driven the bus in question, which had been stated by a witness.

A clever lawyer may argue differently. Experts may state that an experienced driver's actions are automatized and subconsciously controlled to such an extent that a simple mechanical action, such as lighting a cigarette and taking a few puffs, does not in any way detract from his ability to steer his vehicle. On the contrary, the relaxation caused by smoking might counteract the fatigue of a long drive, and actually make for safer driving. Thus, since no one but the sign painter pays any attention to the ban on smoking anyway, the offending driver actually contributes to road safety and should be acquitted.

The layman takes quite a simple view. He knows that from time to time grievous harm has been caused by accidents. He assumes that driving with both hands is safer than driving with one only, and naively enough trusts that the regulations of the Powers That Be, such as the ban on smoking, are made to ensure greater safety. However, in the light of reality, he asks simply and earnestly: what can he do about it and what are those whom he trusts willing to do?

Yours, etc.

"NON-SMOKER"

(Name and Address Supplied) Haifa, April 2.

BUS DOORS

Sir, — On a number of Tel Aviv bus lines (No. 1, for instance) not the driver

but the person wishing to get off opens the rear door. Since many of these buses are older vehicles, the equipment is most difficult to handle and usually requires assistance to get the door open and hold it that way while a passenger is alighting.

This is a most awkward arrangement as there are not always other persons available to help and it is therefore quite common to see severe hardship caused to passengers; the risk of personal injury is also present.

As I am not an engineer, I do not feel qualified to say how this situation can be remedied. However, there are places abroad, where the rear door in single operator buses is controlled by the driver. I hope that we can arrange something similar here too.

S.B.B.

(Name and Address Supplied) Tel Aviv, March 18.

"Dan" Replies

On all the new buses where there are no ticket sellers, the driver is in charge of opening and closing the exit door; where there is a ticket seller, this is his duty. This arrangement does not exist in the old model buses but since these are gradually being withdrawn, the considerable investment that would be required to install this system is unwarranted.

On the other hand, we agree — and we deal with this even before your correspondent raised the question — that in a certain number of buses the springs are so resistant that it is difficult to open the doors.

Yours, etc.

J. LOMAS

Agro-Meteorological, Meteorological Service, Haifa

Tel Aviv, April 18.

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Ghana Uses Israel Methods

M.P. Suggests Ghanaian Farmers Train Here

AGRICULTURAL training camps inspired by the training farms set up by Israel's pioneering movements, have recently been established in Ghana, according to a report by Mr. William Kwa-bena Aduhene, M.P. from Ghana, now visiting in this country as guest of the Histadrut Political Department.

Ghanaian leaders who had made a thorough study of training settlements during their stay in this country, said Mr. Aduhene, had decided to adopt this system as a measure to curb unemployment in Ghana, and to provide for the establishment of it "builders' brigade camps" in different parts of the country, where unemployed families build their own houses and cultivate communal lands. They get 1/3 of a day from the Government, part of which they pay back for communal services.

Trade Unionist. Mr. Aduhene, a member of the governing party, represents in Parliament some 40,000 voters in the district of Sekwi-Wiaswa in the Western Region. He is also a trade unionist and holds the national chairmanship of the Timber Workers Union. Last but not least, he is chief of the Abovodon tribe and it is there, among his people, that he plans to set up an Israel-model moshav.

One of the features of farm life in Ghana is that farmers help each other in land cultivation, harvest and the transport of produce into towns. What Mr. Aduhene plans to do in his region is to give a structural form to this spontaneous cooperation.

Mr. Aduhene stressed Israel's contribution to his country's development. But he made the point that he considered it more advisable for Ghanaian farmers to train in Israel than for Israeli experts to come to Ghana. Much of what the Israelis say seems incredible here, and the Ghanaians must come here to see what can be done by modern methods.

Cocoa Owner. Mr. Aduhene, who is 32, began his career as a school teacher. After four years in this profession he became interested in youth organizations and through these activities was brought into politics. He then became a chief as well as a prosperous landowner — he owns 100 square miles of cocoa plantations.

Kinship relations in Ghana are beneficial in some respects, said Mr. Aduhene, but they retard the country's development. Young people on farms can afford to be idle, because there will always be a family to support them. For most Ghanaians migration to the city means a complete break with old ways of life. The Government's five-year plan has appropriated 12m. for new housing schemes in cities, operated through the Government Housing Corporation. Tenants will own their own houses after 20 years. In the rural areas Government aid is given to farmers under the "roof system": when a family proves it can sustain the greater part of building expenses, the Government supplies the rest. The Government also plans to start local industries in rural areas. A sum of 135,000, will be put into the establishment of some 600 such projects in the near future.

Mr. Aduhene notes that Ghana trade unions have much to learn from Israel. They have developed into a national framework only recently, with the adoption of the Industrial Relations Act of 1958. There are 24 of them, represented on a trade union congress which coordinates activities and policy.

"Taming" Opposition. As a protagonist of strong one-party government, Mr. Aduhene is preoccupied with the problem of taming the opposition. In Ghana, he says, it is many intellectual forces in its ranks, and holds key positions in industry, commerce and cooperative organizations. Rather than abusing them publicly, the Government builds up rival institutions which, it hopes, will limit their activities in the long run. N.A.

At the Cinema

Hemingway cum Kipling

"HARRY BLACK and the Tiger" ties familiar Hemingway complexes and well-known Kipling problems securely together with that old school tie, obviously still waving over India, where some pakka sahibs decided to stay on as a caste of superior vermin destructors. Stewart Granger with one leg is much more English than any other actor manages to be on two. The rest of the acting is better forgotten, except for the tiger and the usual funny gun-bearer.

Hilarious Danny

"MERRY ANDREW" is about the funniest Danny Kaye musical we have seen in a long time. The plot, involving a school master turning archaeologist and finally ending up as a circus clown, gets lost at an early stage, but it really does not matter. Pier Angel is a bit too winsome for a trapeze artist, but the Metropolitan's basso, Salvatore Baccaloni, gives his best as a hilarious circus director.

By the author of BATTLE CRY

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